

Also, the State Board of Education awards a North Carolina teaching license to out-of-state teachers who possess National Board Certification.

“Our investment in these teachers is clearly paying off,” said Easley. “On the National Assessment of Educational Progress test, North Carolina outcores both the southeast and national averages. In fact, our fourth grade students lead the nation in math this past year.

“This process clearly makes a difference to our teachers and our students. I thank the legislature for their commitment to funding this program. We must continue that commitment in order to meet our goal of leading the nation in public education. Improving teacher quality is key to our success.”

Currently, *Education Week* magazine ranks North Carolina in the top ten in the nation for improving teacher quality according to their Quality Counts 2004 report. North Carolina also leads the nation both in the total number of National Board Certified Teachers, with 6,646, and the largest class of newly certified teachers, with 1,509 teachers certified in December. Currently, one in every 13 North Carolina teachers is National Board Certified.

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